



COMMUNITY NEWS

Via Linda District

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'Tis the Season...

...for scams, cons and frauds! About a hundred years ago a group of people known as the "Irish Travelers" came to the United States from England and Ireland and moved across the country doing seasonal work. They became known for their home improvement scams.

These con artists go door-to-door, often targeting the elderly. They usually drive unmarked pick-up trucks with out-of-state plates. They claim to be pavers, roofers, painters, or repairmen who just happen to have left-over materials from a previous job, allowing them to offer huge discounts.

They can bring tears to the eyes of their victims when they explain the tragic circumstances which forced them to sell everything they own to support their families. Rarely will they provide a written contract and if they do, the contract information will be fraudulent. They often request cash up front and won't return to complete the job.

This is an active time of year for con artists. To prevent these scams:

- Verify contractors with the Registrar of Contractors website (www.azroc.gov).
- Don't fall for "I just happened to be in your neighborhood." story. Like the saying, "If it's too good to be true, it probably is."
- Don't fall for "today" only specials.
- Ask for written estimates from several companies for identical project specifications.
- Always insist on a contract for work to be performed, with all guarantees, warranties and promises in writing.
- Agree on start and completion dates and have them written into the contract.



From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

This month I would like to get on board with an event being held in District One at the Granite Reef Senior Center. On December 6th, they will be hosting a community event to include **FREE** shredding. Events like these are a great opportunity to participate in the fight against identity theft! Thieves are looking for documents that have your personal information so they can commit fraud. They "dumpster dive" or go through your garbage to find documents that contain your personal information. When you shred these documents, you make much more difficult for these criminals.

This community event is in partnership with the City's Citizen Neighborhood Resource Department, and will include representatives from numerous City Departments as well as a **FOOD DRIVE** for *Vista del Camino*.

Along with helping yourself through the shredding event, you can help us fill Vista del Camino's food bank in preparation for their holiday distribution. Collection boxes will be available for you to give non-perishable food items. There will also be representatives there to promote their Adopt-A-Family program which supports over 500 Scottsdale families. If everyone brought a couple food items, think of the families we could assist this holiday season!

Please join us for this great event!

Commander Burl Haenel

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“Truth and Secrets REVEALED” Video Addresses Drug Abuse

Parents may be surprised to learn how their kids are hiding their drugs and their drug abuse.

The Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine recently released a video called, "Truth and Secrets REVEALED About Drug Abuse." Stephanie Siete, coalition member and Community Bridges public relations director, presents enlightening information that every parent should know. Community Bridges provides substance abuse treatment and recovery to homeless, indigent, and working poor adults.

Parents will find out about “pharm” parties, legal household items teens are using to get high and the staggering statistics about the growing use of drugs.

“Secrets” reveals that your medicine cabinet is the *Number 1* place teens find their drugs . . . highlighters can be smoking pipes in disguise and canned or bottled beverages may be easily altered to provide hiding spaces for drugs.

The video, produced by the City of Scottsdale’s CityCable 11 staff, can be viewed online at www.stopmethuse.com or seen on CityCable 11 at 2 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays during November. In addition, the coalition distributed 300 DVDs to schools, community centers and various groups.

Parents please educate yourself about this growing epidemic. We believe you will find this information to be eye-opening!

For more information on crime prevention, or anything found in this newsletter please contact Officer Kory Sneed at 480-312-5696 or email ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Child Safety Seats

Each year, approximately 1,800 children who are less than 14 years of age lose their lives as the result of a motor vehicle crash. Another 280,000 children are injured.

Child safety seats, when properly installed, save lives. A study released by the National Safe Kids Campaign however, reports that at least 85 percent of the 17,500 seats inspected were installed incorrectly. The most common misuses were the safety belt not holding the seat tightly, and harness straps not being used properly.

Scottsdale Fire Department is now providing seat inspections on the second and fourth Saturday morning of each month by appointment. Please call **480-312-BABY** (2229) to schedule your seat inspection today!

Calendar of Events

December 6, 2008

Shredding Event and Take the Government to the People: Bring up to 4 boxes of personal documents, and utilize the many resource tables that will be on hand at the Granite Reef Senior Center 9:00 – 12:00. Please bring non-perishable food items to support *Vista Del Camino!*

December 12 – January 3, 2008 (6:30-9:00 pm)

All aboard Arizona's most unique holiday event! Take a train ride through many festive holiday lights and displays turning the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park (7301 E. Indian Bend Road) into a winter wonderland. Opening night festivities include a tree lighting ceremony, entertainment and a visit from Santa. Santa will be at the park through Dec. 23. Children under 3 can ride the train and carousel for free with a paying adult. The event will be closed on Dec. 24, 25 and 31.

The Scottsdale Police Department



Wants You!

The Scottsdale Police Department has excellent job opportunities in the following fields: Police Officer, Police Aide, Communications, Detention Officers, Crime Lab, Records, and Crime Scene Specialists.

Visit our website at www.Scottsdalepd.com or contact Officer Greg Carlin at 480-312-5384 or e-mail: gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov.